Tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution), Bill, 2001 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001. This Bill provides for prohibiting smoking in public places and contains penal provisions for its violation.

Treatment of diseases by ayurvedic medicines

*297. SHRI RAJU PARMAR.

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that diseases like arthritis, slip disc, spondylitis, asthma, sinusitis and migraine can be cured by ayurvedic medicines;

(b) whether the success rate of curing these diseases is between 70 and 80 per cent according to the surveys conducted by experts;

(c) if so, the steps Government are contemplating to increase the number of hospitals and dispensaries in the country to cure the above diseases at a reasonable rates;

(d) whether Government propose to open Research and Development Centres also for procuring and testing of herbs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Medicines are available in Ayurvedic System for the treatment and management of these indications.

(b) No survey has been commissioned by the Central Government for determining the success rate of these medicines.

(c) Health is a State subject and opening of new hospitals and dispensaries falls under the purview of the concerned State Government. However, Government is encouraging the States to increase availability of ISM drugs in the State run hospitals and dispensaries.

(d) and (e) The Government is providing financial assistance for upgradation of the State Drug Testing Laboratories and Pharmacies to enforce quality control of ISM&H drugs and augment production of standard drugs.